We claim:

1   1.   A system for providing information to a user connected to a data network, the

2   system comprising:

        a database for storing information;

4   a server associated with the database and having an information module, the

5   information module responsive to a search request signal and sends information from the

6   database corresponding to the search request signal; and

7   a first station for initiating voice conversation with a second station, the first

8   station having a playback module for playing information stored at the first station and a flow

9   controller for determining an amount of bandwidth available to receive information from the

10   database and responsively affecting the receiving of information from said database.

1   2.   The system of Claim 1, wherein the first station includes means for receiving

2   personal information from a user and sending the search request signal based on said personal

3   information.

1   3.   The system of Claim 1, wherein while the first station coupled for

2   communication with the information module, the flow controller monitors the amount of

3   bandwidth available to receive information from the database.

1   4.   The system of Claim 1, wherein the first station has means for determining

2   whether the information received from the database is properly received.

1   5.   The system of Claim 1, wherein the database stores the information in

2   predetermined categories that the server uses for searching for information corresponding to

3   the search request signal.

1   6.   The system of Claim 5, wherein the search request signal from the first station
2   contains a code associated with at least one of the predetermined categories.

1   7.   The system of Claim 1, wherein the first station includes means for storing
2   information received from the database and means for playing at least a portion of said
3   information at a designated time.

1   8.   The system of Claim 7, wherein the first station plays at least one portion of the
2   information before establishing a communication channel between the first and second stations.

1   9.   The system of Claim 8, wherein the first station receives information from the
2   database after establishing the communication channel between the first and second stations.

1   10.   The system of Claim 1, wherein the playback module streams the information
2   received from the database.

1   11.   The system of Claim 1, wherein the first station is a telephonic device and can
2   establish a communication channel over a packet-switched network.

1   12.   The system of Claim 1, wherein the information is advertisements.

1   13.   The system of Claim 1, wherein the information is a plurality of music
2   programs.

1   14.   The system of Claim 1, wherein the information is a plurality of stock quotation
2   information.

1   15.   A first station for providing information to a user connected to a network, the
2   first station comprising:

3   a user interface for allowing a user to interact with the first station; and

4   a storage medium having stored therein a plurality of programming modules

5 including a call initialization module, a playback module, and a flow controller, wherein the

6 call initialization module initiates voice communication with a second station, the playback

7 module plays information received at the first station, and the flow controller determines an

8 amount of communication bandwidth available to receive information at the first station and

9 responsively affecting the receiving of the information at said first station based on the amount

10 of bandwidth available.

1   16.   The first station of Claim 15, wherein the flow controller monitors the amount

2 of communication bandwidth available to receive information from a server while the first

3 station is in communication with the server.

1   17.   The first station of Claim 15, wherein the playback module streams information

2 received at the first station.

1   18.   The first station of Claim 15, further comprising an error controller for

2 determining whether information received at the first station is properly received.

1   19.   The first station of Claim 18, wherein in response to determining the

2 information was not properly received at the first station, causing said information to be resent

3 to the first station.

1   20.   The first station of Claim 15, wherein the storage medium providing storage of

2 information received at the first station before playback.

1   21.   The first station of Claim 20, further comprising a memory manager for

2 managing a memory allocation of the storage medium.

1   22.   The first station of Claim 15, further comprising a code module for receiving

2   personal information from a user and sending a code associated with the personal information

3   to a server.

1   23.   A method for providing information to a user connected to a data network, the

2   method comprising the steps of:

3   establishing a communication channel between a first station and a server, the

4   server associated with a database;

5   identifying information to send to the first station from the database;

6   determining an amount of communication bandwidth available between the first

7   station and the server; and

8   receiving information at the first station responsive to the amount of

9   communication bandwidth available between the first station and the server for providing to a

10   user.

1   24.   The method of Claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

2   storing the received information at the first station having a memory; and

3   providing the received information to the user at a designated time.

1   25.   The method of Claim 23, further comprising the step of establishing a

2   communication channel between the first station and a second station.

1   26.   The method of Claim 25, wherein the step of receiving information at the first

2   station occurs after the step of establishing a communication channel between the first station

3   and the second station.

1   27.   The method of Claim 25, wherein the step of receiving information at the first

2   station occurs before the step of establishing a communication channel between the first station

3   and the second station.

1   28.   The method of Claim 25, further comprising the steps of:

2   terminating the establishing of the communication channel between the first and

3   second stations and performing the step of establishing a communication channel between the

4   first station and a third station if said first station sends a connection request to establish the

5   communication channel with the third station.

1   29.   The method of Claim 25, further comprising the steps of:

2   prior to performing the step of establishing a communication channel between

3   the first and second stations, determining whether the first station sends a connection request to

4   establish a communication channel with a third station; and

5   terminating the establishing of the communication channel between the first and

6   second stations and performing the step of establishing the communication channel between the

7   first and third stations if said first station sends the connection request.

1   30.   The method of Claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

2   receiving personal information at the first station from a user; and

3   receiving the personal information at the server.

1   31.   The method of Claim 30, wherein the step of identifying information to send to

2   the first station is responsive to the personal information received at the server.

1   32.   The method of Claim 31, further comprising the step of determining whether

2   personal information was already received at the first station from the user.